

HB 2098 -- STUDENT LODGING

SPONSOR: Chipman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 5.

Beginning August 28, 2016, this bill prohibits any public institution of higher education in Missouri from requiring students to live in residence halls on campus.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that no public institution should require anyone to live in dorms.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Chipman.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say most schools have broad exemption policies that allow someone who is not a traditional student or is a local student to not live in the dorms. There would be a large negative fiscal impact to schools in the neighborhood of a \$12-15 million reduction in revenue, which could cause them to default on their bonds. The price of living on campus appears higher than living off campus, but the price includes many amenities not included when computing off campus prices.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri State University.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say many reports and research studies show it is beneficial to require students to live on campus for at least their freshmen year. They are likely to take more classes and thus graduate sooner. There are also added safety benefits.

Testifying on the bill were Frankie Minor, University Of Missouri - Columbia and the University Of Missouri System.